8th July 1952]

MR. SPEAKER :—" The present question does not relate to house-sites. The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister said that there are no fees for the issue of a patta unless it be inducement that is given to the karnams and village munsifs. Do the Government recognize the giving of these inducements officially? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Government do not recognize it at all either officially or unofficially." (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" I pass on to question No. 53."

SRI G. RAMA RAO :—" అయ్యా, ప్రశ్న వేసినది మేము. (అంటే వెనుక 8-45 a m.
బెంచీలపై కూర్చొనినవారము.) సప్లిమెంటరీ ప్రశ్నలు వేసినవారు ముందుకూర్చున్న మెంబర్లు మేము ఎప్పుడు నిలుచున్నా, మీరు మమ్ము చూడలేదు. నాకు ఇంగ్లీషు తెలియదు. నా ప్రశ్నకు ఏమి సమాధానం వచ్చిందో నాకు తెలియదు."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" He says he does not understand English."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member wants any information, let him come and meet me in my chamber."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" I want to know whether the word menial in question No. 53 is parliamentary."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is parliamentary."

Revision of pay of public health menials of Fort Cochin Municipality.

* 53 Q.—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any letter or telegram from municipal authorities of Fort Cochin Municipality in the month of September of 1951 stating that the monthly payment to public health menials of Fort Cochin Municipality be increased to a minimum of Rs. 45 (basic salary and dearness allowance included) and if so, what was the reply given by Government;

(b) whether it was stated in the letter of the Municipal Commissioner that the monthly payments of the menials do not suffice to purchase the rationed articles due to them; and

(c) whether the Fort Cochin Municipality had proposed to supply rice to the menials at subsidized rates and what was the Government's reply?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) A telegram and letter, both, were received in August 1951. The Commissioner, Fort Cochin Municipality, was informed that the question

of revision of pay of public health menials might be considered after the Government had passed orders on the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Committee.

"(*b*) Yes.

"(*c*) Yes. The Government did not approve the proposal."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, if the Government have passed orders on the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Committee, and if so, what those orders are?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The Government Order was issued only on the 29th March 1952."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government consider that the wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act would enable the employees to lead a healthy life?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Only minimum wages are fixed. As a matter of fact, most of the municipalities are paying more than the minimum wages."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that a number of municipalities, like Tuticorin, etc., have not implemented the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Committee, and if so, what action do the Government propose to take?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question refers to Fort Cochin Municipality. Let the hon. Member put a separate question."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, whether the minimum wage includes dearness and other allowances?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"It includes dearness allowance."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN:—"May I know, Sir, what scales of pay have been recommended by the Minimum Wages Committee?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"It is Rs. 25 per mensem for grades I and II and Rs. 40 per mensem for grades III, IV and V."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—"Are the Government satisfied that a mere sum of Rs. 25 inclusive of dearness allowance can be a minimum wage particularly when the textile workers are getting Rs. 40 per mensem as dearness allowance alone?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have already said that almost all the municipalities are paying more than the minimum wages fixed by the Minimum Wages Committee."

8th July 1952]

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The minimum wage fixed previously was Rs. 28 per mensem inclusive of dearness allowance and it was asked to be increased as it did not suffice to purchase the rationed articles. If the minimum wage is now Rs. 25 per mensem inclusive of dearness allowance, do the Government consider that, by decreasing the pay by Rs. 3 the employees will be able to purchase the rationed articles? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is open to the municipalities to write to Government and fix the minimum wages and the Inspector of Local Boards will examine whether the municipalities can afford to pay the proposed wages to their menials."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" If in general practice the municipalities are paying more than the minimum wage, will the Government consider the desirability of fixing the minimum wage a little higher up? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The minimum wage was fixed only recently and the Government Order was published on the 29th March 1952."

Reconstitution of the village panchayats.

* 54 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the hon. Member Sri V. Gopala Gounder is not in his seat, the answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend to reconstitute the village panchayats under the provisions of the Village Panchayats Act, 1950, this year, and if so, when the elections will be held; and

(*b*) if it is by General Election, is it on the basis of adult franchise?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) The Government propose to reconstitute the existing panchayats under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, after holding elections to them, which are expected to commence from September 1952.

" (*b*) Yes, the Assembly electoral rolls pertaining to the panchayat area will be the electoral rolls for panchayat elections also, with reference to section 12 of the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950."

Report of the Special Officer for the development of Ramanathapuram district.

* 55 *Q.*—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Special Officer for development work in Ramanathapuram district has submitted his report to the Government; and